

Message Text

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SUMMARY: AMBASSADOR GREEN USING OCCASION OF HIS APPEARANCE AT THE ZONTA CLUB IN ADELAIDE, SOUTH AUSTRALIA, TO DELIVER ADDRESS ENTITLED "THE REALITIES OF EQUALITY" DEALING WITH WOMEN'S ROLE IN THE WORLD TODAY, RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS, IN THE INTERNATIONAL SCENE, AND IN THE WORLD SCENE. EMBARGOED FOR 11 A.M. APRIL 19, 1975.

HAVING JUST RETURNED FROM A TWO-MONTH VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES, I AM VERY CONSCIOUS OF OUR NATIONAL PRE-OCCUPATION WITH THE CELEBRATION OF OUR BICENTENNIAL NEXT YEAR -- THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION AND THE BIRTH OF OUR NATION.

THE MOST REVOLUTIONARY WORDS IN OUR DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE ARE THESE:

QUOTE - WE HOLD THESE TRUTHS TO BE SELF-EVIDENT, THAT ALL MEN ARE CREATED EQUAL, THAT THEY ARE ENDOWED BY THEIR CREATOR WITH CERTAIN UNALIENABLE RIGHTS, THAT AMONG THESE ARE LIFE, LIBERTY AND THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS".

UNQUOTE.

YOU WILL IMMEDIATELY NOTE -- THIS BEING INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR -- THAT THE PHRASE IS: "ALL MEN ARE CREATED EQUAL". BUT YET, IN THE CONTEXT OF THE TIMES, IT WAS NO

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LESS A REVOLUTIONARY DECLARATION.

ALMOST 200 YEARS HAVE PASSED SINCE THEN. WE HAVE ARRIVED AT 1975 -- INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR -- WHEN OUR NATION, AND YOURS, AND OTHERS, HAVE PROCLAIMED THE EQUALITY OF PEOPLE, OF WOMEN AS WELL AS MEN. SUCH A RECOGNITION IS LONG, LONG OVERDUE.

THE OBJECTIVES OF IWY ARE BEING DISCUSSED AND IMPLEMENTED AROUND THE WORLD: THIS ZONTA SYMPOSIUM IS AN OBVIOUS AND EXCELLENT EXAMPLE.

PRESIDENT FORD, IN ADDRESSING OUR IWY COMMISSION IN THE UNITED STATES, PLEDGED THAT AMERICA WOULD REINFORCE OUR "CONTINUED NATIONAL COMMITMENT TO WOMEN'S RIGHTS". HE REGRETTED THAT THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT HAD NOT YET BEEN RATIFIED BY THE NUMBER OF AMERICAN STATES NECESSARY TO MAKE IT A PART OF OUR CONSTITUTION. I WOULD GO FURTHER THAN REGRET. FOR MANY OF US IT IS A MATTER OF SHAME THAT THIS AMENDMENT WILL PROBABLY NOT BECOME A PART OF OUR CONSTITUTION DURING THIS INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR. BUT ITS EVENTUAL AND EARLY ACCEPTANCE IS ABSOLUTELY INEVITABLE, AND THERE IS EVERY REASON TO BELIEVE THAT IT WILL PASS IN 1976. WHEN IT DOES, IT MIGHT VERY WELL BE THE MOST SIGNIFICANT AND LASTING THING THAT WE AS A NATION WILL HAVE DONE TO MARK OUR BICENTENNIAL YEAR. IT WILL HELP TO REKINDLE THE SPIRIT OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION, AND BROADEN IT. IT WILL CLEARLY AFFIRM THAT ALL PEOPLE IN OUR COUNTRY, INCLUDING WOMEN, ARE EQUAL. IT WILL BUILD UPON THE OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR IN ESTABLISHING A BINDING LEGAL BASIS FOR NON-DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN.

RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

THE FACT SHOULD NOT BE OVERLOOKED THAT IN RECENT YEARS THERE HAVE BEEN MANY SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN THE FIELD OF WOMEN'S RIGHTS, EVEN IF THEY ARE ONLY A BEGINNING.

MAY I CITE A FEW RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN THE UNITED STATES:

1. IN 1973, DOMESTIC WORKERS, MOST OF WHOME ARE WOMEN, WERE FOR THE FIRST TIME BROUGHT UNDER THE PROTECTION OF OUR \$2.20 MINIMUM HOURLY WAGE LAW.

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2. IN 1974, LEGISLATION WAS PASSED IN THE UNITED STATES MAKING IT ILLEGAL FOR BANKS AND OTHER LENDING INSTITUTIONS TO DISCRIMINATE AGAINST WOMEN IN OBTAINING CREDIT. IT IS NO SECRET THAT WOMEN, PARTICULARLY UNMARRIED OR DIVORCED WOMEN, WERE OFTEN TREATED AS SECOND-CLASS CITIZENS IN THE CREDIT WORLD.

3. LEGISLATION WAS ALSO ENACTED FORBIDDING SEX DISCRIMINATION IN HOUSING AND MORTGAGE LENDING AND IN PEN-

SION PLANS. IT HAS FOR SOME TIME BEEN GENERALLY ACCEPTED IN AMERICA THAT SOCIETY OWED TO A WORKING MAN WITH A FAMILY SOME ASSISTANCE AND ASSURANCE THAT HE WOULD HAVE A PLACE FOR HIS FAMILY TO LIVE. THIS ACCEPTANCE HAD NOT PREVIOUSLY EXTENDED TO WOMEN. THEY WERE THOUGHT TO BE POOR CREDIT RISKS.

4. IN 1974, LEGISLATION WAS PASSED PROVIDING 80 MILLION DOLLARS FOR IMPROVEMENT IN EDUCATION FOR WOMEN, ADMITTEDLY ONLY A STARTING SUM.

5. LASTLY, I WOULD MENTION THAT OUR NOVEMBER, 1974 ELECTIONS BROUGHT A TOTAL OF SEVENTEEN WOMEN INTO NATIONAL CONGRESS. ON THE STATE LEVEL, A WOMAN WAS ELECTED GOVERNOR IN CONNECTICUT, LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR IN NEW YORK, STATE SECRETARY IN CALIFORNIA, AND TREASURER AND CHIEF JUSTICE IN OTHER STATES. 650 WOMEN WERE ELECTED TO STATE LEGISLATURES, AN INCREASE OF 150. THESE STATE LEGISLATURES ARE OF COURSE TRADITIONAL STEPPING STONES TO POLITICAL LEADERSHIP AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL.

ON THE OTHER HAND, THERE IS A NEGATIVE SIDE WHICH I CANNOT REFRAIN FROM MENTIONING. IN THE PAST TWENTY YEARS IN THE UNITED STATES, AS CLAIRE BOOTH LUCE HAS RECENTLY POINTED OUT, WOMEN HAVE LOST THE PRESIDENCIES OF LEADING WOMEN'S COLLEGES, AS WELL AS THE DIRECTORSHIPS OF CERTAIN COMPANIES AND EDITORSHIPS OF CERTAIN WOMEN'S MAGAZINES WHICH THEY THEMSELVES STARTED. THERE IS ALSO THE QUESTION OF ATTITUDES THAT PERSIST WITH REGARD TO WOMEN REGARDLESS OF THE MANY IMPROVEMENTS IN THEIR STATUS ACCORDED UNDER OUR STATUTES.

RUTH BACON, DIRECTOR OF THE U.S. CENTER FOR IWW AND A CAREER DIPLOMAT WITH WHOM I WORKED FOR MANY YEARS, HAS POINTED OUT THAT THE PHRASE "WE HAVE COME A LONG WAY" SHOULD NOT BE THE FOCUS OF OUR EFFORTS IN IWW. I FULLY AGREE, AND CONSIDER THE PHRASE OR SLOGAN "WE HAVE COME UNCLASSIFIED

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A LONG WAY" AS LOOKING IN THE WRONG DIRECTION. OUR SIGTHS SHOULD BE SET ON THE FUTURE.

THE INTERNATIONAL SCENE:

IN RECENT YEARS, WOMEN HAVE UNQUESTIONABLY BECOME MORE PROMINENT ON THE INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL SCENE. THERE IS NO NEED FOR ME TO DO MORE THAN MENTION TO THIS AUDIENCE THE NAMES OF -- MRS. INDIRA GHANDI IN INDIA, OR MRS. GOLDA MEIR IN ISRAEL OR MRS. BANDARANAIKE OF SRI LANKA. AND I'M SURE YOU WELCOME THE LATEST TO JOIN THIS FORMER MEN'S FRATERNITY, ALTHOUGH AS PARTY LEADER, NOT HEAD OF GOVERNMENT, MRS. MARGARET THATCHER IN ENGLAND.

YET WHAT ARE FOUR AMONG SO MANY? MORE THAN 50 PCT OF THE PEOPLE IN THE WORLD ARE WOMEN. ONE HAS TO ASK IF THEY ARE PROPORTIONATELY REPRESENTED IN THE GOVERNING OF

THE WORLD. THE ANSWER IS OBVIOUS AND NEGATIVE. EVEN IN THE UN ORGANIZATION ITSELF THE HIGHEST RANKING WOMAN IS AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL WHICH IS BELOW A NUMBER OF DEPUTIES AND UNDERSECRETARIES. I SUPPOSE IT COMES DOWN TO THE FACT THAT FEW WOMEN ARE IN TOP UN POSITIONS BECAUSE FEW COUNTRIES NOMINATE WOMEN.

IN SURVEYING THE WORLD SCENE TODAY, ONE CAN ONLY CONCLUDE THAT THE WORLD WOULD BE IN A BETTER CONDITION IF WOMEN HAD THEIR RIGHTFUL WAY IN SHAPING OUR DESTINIES. THIS IS NOT A HUMOROUS STATEMENT; I REALLY MEAN IT. WE RECOGNIZE THE EQUALITY OF MEN AND WOMEN -- ALTHOUGH SOME ADMIT THIS IS AN INSULT TO WOMEN -- BUT WE ALSO RECOGNIZE THAT MEN AND WOMEN ARE DIFFERENT -- AND THANK GOD FOR THAT. IT IS MY IMPRESSION THAT IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS WOMEN TEND TO BE MORE REALISTIC, CIRCUMSPECT, LESS IMPASSIONED ALTHOUGH MORE SUBJECTIVE THAN MEN. IF WOMEN ARE DENIED THEIR PROPER ROLE IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, THERE IS ALMOST BOUND TO BE AN INADEQUATE REFLECTION OF THESE QUALITIES IN THE CONDUCT OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS. NO GREATER PLANETARY RESOUCES REMAINS TO BE TAPPED THAN WOMEN PLAYING A GREATER ROLE IN SHAPING OUR DESTINY.

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